In the period between August, 1991 and October, 1992, 19 Austrian technical and financial collaborations have been finalised. The details thereof are as follows:—

(i) Technical	15
(ii) Financial	4
TOTAL:	19

Increase in Export

2658. DR. SANJAYA SINH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the value of the country's exports in dollars terms during the last year;

(b) the value of the country's exports in dollar terms during the current year till date; and

(c) the fresh steps Government propose to take to increase exports?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) the value of India's exports in dollar terms during the financial year 1991-92 amounted to US $ 17865 million.

(b) The value of India's exports, in dollar terms, during the first six months of the current financial year *i.e.* April-September, 1992, the latest period for which the trade data is available amounted to US $ 8549 million.

(c) Several changes in trade policy were introduced since July, 1991 aimed at strengthening export incentives, eliminating a substantial volume of import licensing and rationalising the import tariff structure. Rupee has been made partially convertible to encourage generation of foreign exchange. These have been further consolidated in the new Export-Import Policy which, *inter-alia,* aims to promote productivity, modernisation and competitiveness of Indian industry and thereby to enhance its export capabilities. The policy also seeks to promote efficient and internationally competitive import substitution regulated framework for foreign trade. A short-term Action Plan for ensuring the revival of the export momentum has been formulated. Besides, 34 commodities have been identified as 'expteme focus' sectors aimed at value increase of 30% every year, in exports.

Export Earnings from Leather Goods

2659. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what was the export earnings from export of all types of leather goods during the last 3 years, year-wise;

(b) the measures taken to improve production technology import, of raw materials and ensure quality control to encourage boosting up of exports of leather goods;

(c) whether Government are aware of large scale smuggling of leather hides and skins across the neighbouring countries;

(d) the details of steps taken/proposed to be taken to check these activities of tanneries in border areas; and

(c) the names of the tanneries which are involved in illegal activities and the action taken against them?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) India's exports of Leather and Leather Products during the last three years were as under:

(Value in Rs. crores)

Item	1989-90	1990-91	1991-92
Finished leather	714.59	802.29	726.21
Leather footwear	171.43	280.47	430.81
Footwear components	518.25	573.00	663.35
Leather garments	332.88	554.81	736.87
Leather goods	292.87	343.26	518.99
TOTAL.	2030.02	2553.83	3076.23

SOURCE: Council for leather Exports

tion technology in the leather industry, the Government has permitted import of machinery and chemicals in the leather and leather product sector with concessional rates of duty.

Besides, the Government with UNDP assistance has drawn up an integrated National Leather Development Programme to enable the leather industry in the country to face the challenges in the national and international markets. There are different components of the National Leather Development Programme such as human resources development, design and product development, development of supporting industries, effluent treatment and control and strengthening export capability.

A number of programmes with the assistance of various international agencies have also been undertaken to improve the production technology and marketing etc. in the leather sector. The Government has also permitted duty free import of raw hides and skins, chrome tanned leather, crust leather, finished leather, to augment availability of leather.

In order to ensure quality of Indian leather and leather goods, the Burea of Indian Standards is coordinating the activities of the ISO TC-120 Leather EN Standards EEC regulation/harmonisation of Indian standards of footwear and other leather items with ISO standards.

(c) to (e) While some seizures of leather hides & skins have been made by our agencies at our borders, there are no official reports of large-scale smuggling of leather hides & skins across neighbouring countries. However, with a view to check smuggling on these borders, our agencies have strengthened the vigilance and intelligence set up on our borders.

Exclusive Bank to met the Requirements of EOUs/EPZs.

2660. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to set up an exclusive bank to meet the fund requirements of EOUs/EPZs since the EOUs/EPZs are finding it extremely difficult to obtain funds through normal banking channels;

(b) if so, the details of proposals received by Government in this regard;

(c) the actual status of these proposals and final decision, if any, taken in the matter; and

(d) the details of other measures recently taken/proposed for the success of EOUs/EPZs?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up an exclusive Bank to meet the fund requirements of EOU/EPZ units.

(d) Some measures recently taken to improve the competitiveness of EOU/EPZ units include the facility to convert export earnings at market rate of exchange, and simplification of Export—Import Policy and Procedures.

Anti-Dumping Duty

2661. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to levy anti-dumping duty on several items; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and the names of the items likely to be effected?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) and (b) The Indian Customs, Tariff Act, 1975 empowers the Government to impose anti-dumping duties in those cases in